

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 28, 2006

Slaughter Announces \$727,698 Grant to Assist Monroe County's Efforts to Counter Domestic Violence

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-Fairport), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, is pleased to announce that Monroe County has been awarded a \$727,698 grant from the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women.

The funding was awarded through the agency's Encourage Arrest Policies Program, and will support the Monroe County Accountability Program, a cooperative effort of the County of Monroe and the Rochester/Monroe Domestic Violence Consortium (DVC). The grant will be used to assist DVC efforts to develop a coordinated community response to domestic violence.

"As an original author of 1994's Violence Against Women Act, I cannot overstate the importance of the Monroe County Accountability Program in our ongoing campaign to end domestic violence," Rep. Slaughter said. **"I am pleased to announce this funding, which will give us new tools to prosecute abusive partners and defend**

women who have for too long lived with the fear and harm caused by domestic violence.”

The grant will allow the DVC to provide unified leadership to provide a consistent, coordinated community response to eliminate domestic violence. It will fund increased legal representation for victims of domestic violence, as well as increased prosecution and supervision of offenders through additional attorneys and probation officers, among other efforts.

The Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program implements parts of the Violence Against Women Act, of which Congresswoman Slaughter was an original author. The program enhances victim safety and offender accountability in domestic violence cases by encouraging jurisdictions to implement mandatory and pro-arrest policies as an effective domestic violence intervention that is part of a coordinated community response.

###